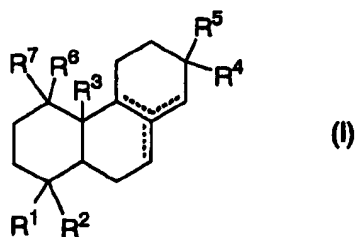


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) A Method of opening potassium channels, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula [I]:

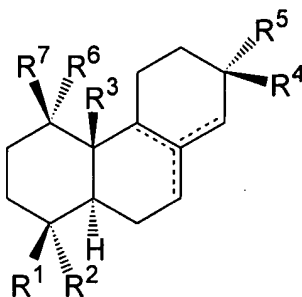


wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^4 and R^5 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R^6 and R^7 may be bonded to each other to form a ring;

and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including a human in need thereof.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R² is hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;

R¹, R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R⁴ and R⁵ may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R⁶ and R⁷ may be bonded to each other to form a ring;

and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are alkyl or alkenyl, R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen and R² is carboxyl, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of the following compounds: (1) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkenyl, R^5 is alkyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, (2) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkyl, R^5 is alkenyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and (3) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkyl, R^5 is alkyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

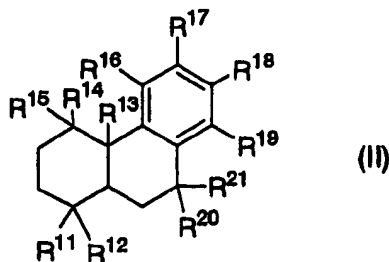
16. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of pimelic acid, dihydropimelic acid, dihydroisopimaric acid, sandaracopimelic acid, isopimelic acid, and dihydroisopimelic acid, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

17. **(Withdrawn; Currently Amended)** A method of ~~opening potassium channels,~~
treatment of hypertension including essential hypertension, tonic bladder, disturbances of
peripheral circulation, airway hyperresponsiveness, sensory neuron hypersensitivity, central
spasm or ischemic central nervous system disorder, which comprises administering a compound represented by the following formula (II):

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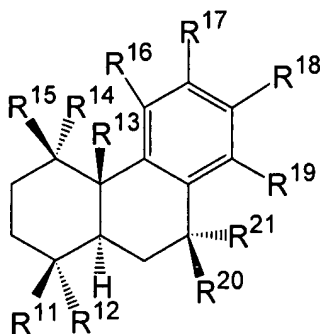
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wherein R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²⁰ and R²¹ are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R²⁰ and R²¹ may be bonded to each other to form oxo, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

18. (**Withdrawn**) The method according to claim 17, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R¹² is acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;
R¹¹, R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²⁰ and R²¹ are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl,

heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R²⁰ and R²¹ may be bonded to each other to form oxo.

19. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R¹¹, R¹³, and R¹⁸ are alkyls, R¹² is carboxyl, R¹⁴, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are hydrogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R¹¹, R¹³ and R¹⁸ are alkyls, R¹² is carboxyl, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R²⁰, and R²¹ are hydrogen, and R¹⁷ and R¹⁹ are halogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

21. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 12 or 17, wherein the potassium channels are calcium-activated potassium channels.

22. **(Withdrawn; Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 12 or 17, which method is for ~~prevention and/or~~ treatment of essential hypertension, tonic bladder, airway hyperresponsiveness, or ischemic central nervous system disorder.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 17, wherein said compound is dichlorodehydroabietic acid.